

SECTION I
AMENDMENTS - IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following Abstract on a separate page of the specification, following page 29:

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

~~The present invention relates to~~ Provided are novel rumen bacterial mutants resulted from the disruption of a lactate dehydrogenase gene (*ldhA*) and a pyruvate formate-lyase gene (*pfl*) ~~(which are involved in the production of lactic acid, formic acid and acetic acid)~~ from rumen bacteria; a novel bacterial mutant (*Mannheimia sp.* LPK7) having disruptions of a ~~lactate dehydrogenase gene (*ldhA*), a *pfl* pyruvate formate-lyase gene (*pfl*),~~ a phosphotransacetylase gene (*pta*), and an acetate kinase gene (*ackA*); a novel bacterial mutant (*Mannheimia sp.* LPK4) having disruptions of a ~~lactate dehydrogenase gene (*ldhA*), a pyruvate formate-lyase gene (*pfl*)~~ and a phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase gene (*ppc*) involved in the immobilization of CO₂ in a metabolic pathway of producing succinic acid; and a method for producing succinic acid, ~~which is characterized by the culture of the above mutants in anaerobic conditions. The inventive~~ bacterial mutants have the property of producing succinic acid at high concentration while producing little or no organic acids, as compared to the prior wild-type strains of producing various organic acids. Thus, the ~~inventive~~ bacterial mutants are useful as strains for the industrial production of succinic acid.

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